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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 06314 281725Z
ACTION AF-10
INFO OCT-01 ARA-12 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SPRS-02 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 AID-07 COME-00 IDCA-02
AGRE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 PC-01 HHS-04 ED-04 IO-14
HA-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ANAE-00 /129 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6688
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CC DATE 3 MAR 1982
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BOGOTA FOR AMBASSADOR; CONAKRY FOR KILLION; LONDON FOR
LANPHER; PARIS FOR MURPHY
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, UV
SUBJECT: COL SAYE ZERBO ADDRESSES DIPLOMATIC CORPS
REF: OUAGADOUGOU 6300
1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE SPEECH
GIVEN BY COL SAYE ZERBO TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS NOV 25.
IT REPRESENTS THE FIRST PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT, OTHER THAN
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ANNOUNCING THE TAKEOVER, HE HAS MADE.
TEXT: AS YOU ARE AWARE, UPPER VOLTA HAS BEEN UNDERGOING
FOR SOME TIME UNPRECEDENTED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONFUSION.
THE FACTORS DETERMINING THIS DRAMATIC SITUATION WERE
CHARACTERIZED BY THE LACK OF FIRM, CONSISTENT POLICIES
IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR CULTURAL AREAS ADEQUATE TO MEET
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HOUR. THE FUNCTIONING OF THE
INTITUTIONS AND AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, REFLECTING THE
LACK OF ANY DECISIONMAKING, OF ANY FIRMNESS AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE OF A DEMOCRATIC STATE,
HAD SADLY TARNISHED THE IMAGE OF THE STATE BOTH INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY. THE CROWNING BLOW WAS THE LAST CRISIS.
FOR THAT REASON THE ARMY, THE PERMANENT GUARDIANS CHARGED
WITH CONSERVING THE NATIONAL IDENTITY, COULD NO LONGER

CONTINUE TO PLAY THE ROLE OF OBSERVER. IT HAD TO TAKE ITS RESPONSIBILITY. IN SUM, THE EXECUTIVE AND LESISLATIVE POWERS, FACED WITH THEIR OWN INTERNAL DIFFERENCES, COULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS.
AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEMS, AS WE ALL KNOW, EACH YEAR AT LEAST 85 PERCENT OF VOLTAN CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SCHOOL. THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE THAT THIS SITUATION WOULD CHANGE. ADDED TO THIS ARE THE NATURAL CALAMITIES (DROUGHT).

IN THIS AREA, AS WELL AS OTHERS, WERE THE VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE CONCERNED, UPPER VOLTA REMAINS THANKFUL TO THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH YOU REPRESENT FOR THE EFFORTS OF ASSISTING IN OVERCOMING THE EFFECTS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT. IT WAS IN AN EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT THIS ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THE EFFORTS OF THE VOLTAN CITIZENS, WAS NOT WASTED, THAT THE ARMY OF THE PEOPLE TOOK POWER ON NOVEMBER 25. WE ARE ALL PREPARED TO LOOK FOR THE APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS THAT WILL PERMIT US TO OVERCOME THE
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PRESENT IMPASSE AND TO RE-ESTABLISH A REAL DEMOCRACY THAT WILL GUARANTEE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIBERTIES.

UPPER VOLTA REMAINS TIED TO THE HIGH IDEALS OF FRIENDSHIP, OF PEACE, OF JUSTICE AND THE RESPECT OF PEOPLES. WE ASSURE YOU ALSO OF OUR FIRM COMMITTMENT TO ALL OF THE AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND INTERAFRICAN WHICH UPPER VOLTA SIGNED IN ENTIRE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. WE ASK THAT YOU INFORM YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES OF OUR DESIRE, WITH MUTUAL RESPECT, TO COOPERATE WITH ALL NATIONS FOR THE RECOVERY OF LIBERTY, PEACE AND JUSTICE. WE REAFFIRM OUR SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CHARTER, OAU, SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE IDEAL OF NON-ALIGNMENT. FINALLY, TO OUR BROTHERS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, WE COULD NEVER FORGET TO RENEW, ON THIS OCCASION THE FEELINGS OF FRATERNITY THAT THE VOLTAIC PEOPLE HAVE FOR THEM.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: THIS SPEECH WAS DELIVERED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. PICTURES OF EX-PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WERE STILL HANGIN. COL. ZERBO APPEARED SOMEWHAT NERVOUS, BUT NOT AS NERVOUS AS THE FOUR COLLEAGUES WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM. -- LT COLS NEZIEN, COMBASSERE, SANFO AND TIENTARABOUM. THE SPEECH DOES NOT MARK A DEPARTURE FROM POLICIES OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, IN FACT, IT IS RATHER LOW KEY. THE JUSTIFICATION FOR TAKING POWER NOW IS THE SAME AS PRESENTED BY COL ZERBO THE MORNING OF TAKEOVER WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALLUSIONS TO THE CORRUPTION OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT.
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